

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please cancel the previously-filed Abstract of the Disclosure and insert the new Abstract provided on a separate sheet in the Appendix.

Page 1, on line 3, amend the section heading as follows:

--TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION--

Page 1, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

--The invention refers to a method and a processing system for a communications network, ~~according to the non-characterizing portions of claim 1 and 8, respectively.~~--

Page 1, on line 7, amend the section heading as follows:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Page 1, on line 21, amend the section heading as follows:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Page 2, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

--The objects are achieved by a method and a processing system for a communications network, ~~according to the characterizing portions of claim 1 and 8, respectively.~~--

Page 2, on line 20, amend the section heading as follows:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES--

Page 6, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

--Referring to Fig. 4, the linker moves at least one sequence in the instruction memory and allocates at least one state preserving operation, or no operation instruction, NOP in the instruction memory, so as to make at least two execution path equally long, whereby the length of the at least two execution paths correspond to the longest execution path. As an example, in Fig. 4 the longest execution is determined by the root sequence 7a, a first relocation object 101 and a first leaf sequence 71. An alternative execution path is formed by a part of the root sequence 7a, a second relocation object 102 and a second leaf sequence 72. The alternative execution path has a shorter execution time compared to the longest execution path, due to the second relocation object 102 being located closer to the root of the root sequence 7a than the first relocation object 101, and the second leaf sequence 72 being shorter than the first leaf sequence. The linker moves the second leaf sequence and enters state preserving operations NOP (no operation) before and after the second leaf sequence 72. Alternatively, the second leaf sequence is not moved and state preserving operations NOP are entered after second leaf sequence 72. Thereby, all alternative execution paths become equally long, and the execution time is equal to the longest path for all possible alternative paths.--